

May 12, 1999

0650 '99 MAY 17 19:41

Dockets Management Branch, (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane - Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket #H98N-1038. Irradiation in the production, processing & handling of food.

To Whom It May Concern:

By either not prominently labeling foods "irradiated" or using other terms to describe such practices so that this procedure will be more acceptable to the consumer, we are deeply concerned that as consumers we will not be given the choice of whether to buy foods subjected to this new technology and the public's right to know. This technology destroys vitamins and alters changes in the sensory component of food. In addition, irradiation of our foods increases concern for the impact on the environment and other safety issues. Advocates of this technology also plan to use the by-products of nuclear plants to dispose of their nuclear waste.

Let's not repeat the disastrous consequences experienced from the introduction of such chemicals and technology as PCB's, CF's, DDT's and Agent Orange, into the environment by adding to this list the irradiation of foods just to increase their shelf life and deter spoilage.

I urge you to insist that foods subjected to this kind of technology be labeled "irradiated" and not use other terms to describe it, so that the consumers right to know will be protected.

Sincerely,

Joseph & Rose Lutri, Lynn Garcia

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98N-1038

C/686

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